

ACTION LINE solves problems, gets answers, cuts red tape and stands up for your rights. Call ACTION LINE at 236-0888, from 9.30 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Or, if you prefer, write to ACTION LINE at The Citizen, 136 Sparks St., Ottawa 4.

The safe burning of candles

Recently, Action Line reported a small fire that apparently statrted when a length of burning wick from a drip-type candle fell onto a piece of paper placed in a dish below.

Fortunately, the fire was noticed in time, and it was put out with very little damage.

We questioned the common sense of the instructions on the candle box. The instructions said to put paper or cardboard beneath the candles to catch wax that might overflow.

The column brought an interesting letter from Grant G. Thompson, president of Ovgem Limited, which operates the Candle Shop, at 237 Bank St., and the Ottawa Candle Wholesale House, at 236 Nepean

Because of the growing use of candles in homes and arguments, we thought some of Mr. Thompson's comments on candle safety would be interesting. He says: "Anything flammable should not be used as protection against any burning candle.

Carelessness causes accidents

"I have personally burned hundreds of these candles as we decorate dozens of bottles for decor in our store, as well as for sale.

"The danger of burning candles is not caused so much by faulty manufacture, or misplaced instructions, as by the carelessness of some people who burn them. In our years of experience in the candle business, we found that nearly 100 per cent of all mishaps are caused by people who either leave a burning candles unattended, or do not take proper precautions.

"Some people light candles and forget about them, then leave the room, or even the house. This falls in the same category as dropping a lighted match in the forest, leaving a burning cigaret on a table, or taking your hands off the steering wheel of a car at 60 miles per hour."

Mr. Thompson says he is in favor of better candle-safety instructions. His firm printed a small booklet that gave candle safety advice and distributed 30,000 copies. He is now preparing a safety pamphlet that will be put into every parcel that leaves his store.

Stains should be prevented

The candle-shop operator says buyers sometimes complain about stains on linen, rugs, tables and floors. He says:

"There isn't too much that can be done to remove colored wax from such things. But measures can be taken to prevent such accidents with almost every type of candle."

Mr. Thompson says hobbyists or amateurs who make their own candles sometimes run into difficul-

"These home-made candles can be dangerous," he says. "We have found that the choice of wick size and the kinds of wax used are not always correct for the type of candle being made."

Mr. Thompson says home-made candle making is a much more widespread hobby than many people re-

"Before Christmas, we sold six tons of candle wax to individuals in the Ottawa area," he says.

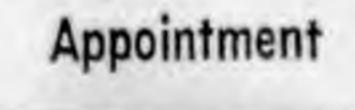
Youth suffers serious burns in garage fire

A Vanier youth is in Otta- ployee, when the accident wa General Hospital with third degree burns covering most of his body after cleaning solvent caused a light tor casing with a thinner. canal, hand in hand, evibulb to explode, setting fire He had arranged a light dently enjoying themselves to an automobile body shop bulb, attached to an exten- tremendously. Saturday afternoon. His sion cord, underneath the "Physically it hits you in

Groulx Body Shop, 175 Des- the explosion. clude lack of facilities and

Marcel Philippe, 17, of on the bulb, breaking it, calms you down effective-165 Deschamps St., was causing the filament to ly." working on his car at short circuit, resulting in Major inconveniences in-

champs, where he is an em- Flames reached the can traffic, although there is of volatile solvent, and the plenty of parking nearby. fire spread. Vanier police There are only two accesses Cons. Ray Hammond, alert- ed by a neighbor, arrived as Mr. Philippe, his clothes ablaze, ran from the garage Children



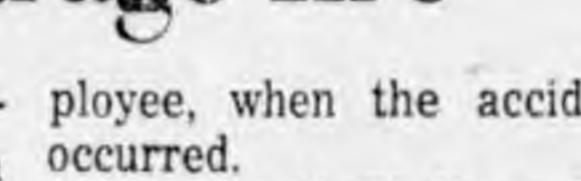


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Fireman silhouetted against background of smoke and flames at height of blaze that left more than dozen people homeless

Rideau Canal comes alive

By Denis Chagnon Citizen special correspondent

Ottawa is alive, and well, and skating!

If center town used to be ings and onto narrow staira winter ghost town Sunday afternoons, you wouldn't have guessed it yesterday. Literally thousands swarmed onto the NCC skating rink this weekend and all along its three-and-a-half miles to Dow's lake.

They came from all sides, by car, by bus and on foot lining up at the too few entrances to the Rideau Canal ice, and when it got slow they simply jumped over the side.

Whereas it would be unusual, it was common place to see people walk down the streets, in groups, with skates hanging from the shoulders.

Skating has become the "in" thing these days.

Pulsating beat

As one pretty young lady said, "It gives Ottawa a pulsating beat, a "joie de vivre' and represents one of the few exciting gathering places, especially in winter."

Indeed a marvelous way to bring people together, enthusiasts varied as much in age as they did in their clothing-from the kids snug in their snowsuits, the teen-agers in colourful jackets and tuques through the conventional shirt and tie and fur coats.

Reaction to the project was positive.

"The ice is bad in some places," said a smiling young man," but it's a fantastic, groovy idea that allows you to do your own thing on ice."

Family outing

The sport also constitutes Police said Philippe had an ideal family outing demremoved the vehicle's start- onstrated by the numerous er and was cleaning the mo- families skating along the

condition was listed as seri- car. the legs," said one young ous. Some of the thinner fell man," but it relaxes and

may have set church blaze

Firemen suspect children playing with fire may have touched off a blaze that caused about \$5,000 damage to St. Francois Roman Catholic Church in Pointe Gati-

spotted the flames at the rear of the church at St. Jean Baptiste Street and Greber Boulevard at 4.20 p.m. Sunday.

The fire worked between the plaster and the wall, and it took firemen an hour to extinguish it.

No one was in the church at the time.



to the rink below the Arts the stairs, people spilled

Because of crowding near skates outside.

minutes to reach the ice.

Center, and at the one bor- into the roadway in the path dering Colonel By Drive you of uncoming cars adding to must climb over iron rail- the traffic tangle. In addition there are only

case. It sometimes takes 15 two buildings for changing although many put on their

and caused damage estimat- Robert, his wife and child; Notre Dame st. ed as high as \$100,000. Many residents of the block were away at the time

7.12 p.m. and all escaped without injury. No personal property was saved. "Flames were billowing out of the front window and the fire was well advanced by the time we got there," said Fire Chief James O'Farrell. He described it as

the fire was first noticed at

large commercial block.

the worst fire in two years. The fire swept through a men's wear shop, a paint store and a finance company, reducing the site to twisted beams and gray rubble in six hours. Only the west wall of the 100-footbuilding remained

standing. With the volunteer aid of 10 firemen from Pointe-Gatineau, the fire was stopped from spreading to an adjacent house and gas station. storage building behind the furniture store, however, was damaged.

\$100,000 Gatineau fire A Sunday evening fire The building, which in- Andre Cote, his wife and in Gatineau put more than cluded new and old sections, child; Emile Filiatreault and a dozen people out of their is owned by Mustapha An- his wife; and Jacques An-

niture store. Sunday evening, raced \$100,000.

through four stores and six

apartments and razed a toine, who operated the fur- toine and his wife and child.

The businesses destroyed The blaze started in the He told neighbors the were Antoine Furniture, front of the Antoine Furni- two-storey building was in- 302 Notre Dame St.; Michel ture Store at Third Avenue sured for \$32,000, but his Mongeon Menswear, 304 and Notre-Dame Street ear- total loss was about Notre Dame St.; La Boutique de la Couleur, 306 Residents of the apart- Notre Dame St.; and Avco apartments in the building ments included Jacques Financial Services, 308





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